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FLORIDA TAKES NEXT STEPS IN TRANSITION TO ELECTRONIC TITLES

~ DHSMV service promotes easy record-keeping and protects consumers ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is pleased to announce changes that will enhance customer convenience and provide added consumer protection for motorists. New titles and those held by lienholders remain recorded by the Department in an electronic format until an owner chooses to create a paper title. A \$2.50 service/mailing fee (or \$10 for expedited service available at most tax collector offices) will be charged to convert the title to paper, thus encouraging more owners to receive the benefits of keeping their titles electronic.

Electronic titles or “e-titles” are titles for motor vehicles, mobile homes or vessels that the Department maintains in an electronic format, thus eliminating the risk of losing the title and protecting it from potential fraud or theft. E-titles prove ownership the same way as a paper title, and an owner can easily see the status of his/her title, including an indication of “*Electronic Title*,” via the Department’s website at www.flhsmv.gov. Click *Motor Vehicle Check*. When a customer satisfies a lien on a vehicle, mobile home or vessel that has an e-title, the title remains electronic.

“Maintaining an e-title will save an owner from the frustration of trying to locate a paper title. The Department receives numerous requests each year for duplicate titles after owners misplace them, and this can be an added cost to the consumer. For most motorists, an e-title will provide additional security and save them money, too,” said Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles, Carl Ford.

Owners usually want paper titles when they sell a vehicle to another person. When an owner wants the paper title, he/she can simply visit the local tax collector’s office or order the title through the Department’s website at www.flhsmv.gov to obtain the paper title.

By maintaining an e-title, consumers avoid the risk of obtaining a paper title that could be lost or stolen, resulting in the consumer having to obtain a duplicate title at a later date that will cost approximately \$75.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov.

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